

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, January 2, 2004*

## HOMICIDES IN DC DECLINE MORE THAN 5 PERCENT IN 2003; CLEARANCE RATE IMPROVES TO 61 PERCENT

According to preliminary figures, DC ended 2003 with a total of 248 homicides, a decline of 5.3 percent from the 262 murders that took place in 2002. Compared with a decade ago, DC had 38 percent fewer homicides last year than in 1994, when there were 399 murders in the city. Firearms were used in 193, or nearly 78 percent, of the homicides in 2003. Knives were used in 34 murders (13.7 percent). More than 84 percent of the homicide victims in 2003 were African-American males (209 victims), and another 8.5 percent (21 victims) were black females. The 2003 victims also included 10 Latino males, six white males, one Asian male and one male of another race/ethnicity. The number of juvenile murder victims age 17 and younger declined last year, from 16 in 2002 to 12 in 2003. April was the deadliest month of 2003, with 28 homicides, followed by July (26) and August (25). After increasing earlier in the year (by as much as 25 percent in early May), homicides declined in the fall, with September having the lowest monthly total of 14. Preliminary figures show that homicides declined in five of the seven police districts last year, including a 24 percent reduction in the Fourth District (from 41 to 31). Homicides increased slightly in 6D (65 to 66) and 7D (58 to 64). The homicide clearance rate in DC rose from about 55 percent in 2002 to 61 percent in 2003, the preliminary data show. A total of 151 homicide cases were closed during 2003, including cases from prior years, which, according to FBI standards, are counted in the 2003 clearance rate.

- ① Get statistics on homicides, arrests and firearm recoveries at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm>

## TEMPORARY CCTV CAMERAS ADDED DURING CURRENT ORANGE ALERT

The MPDC has deployed three additional Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras on a temporary basis to support public safety operations during the current Code Orange terrorism alert. The additional cameras are located in the following general areas in Northwest DC: Lafayette Park, Farragut Square and McPherson Square. The three temporary cameras are in addition to the 14 cameras that are part of the MPDC's current CCTV system. These 14 cameras were activated on December 21, when the national threat level was raised from Elevated (Yellow) to High (Orange). Pursuant to DC Municipal Regulations, Title 24, Chapter 25, the MPDC is required to provide public notice of plans to deploy CCTV cameras. During exigent circumstances, additional cameras can be deployed on a temporary basis without advance public notice, but with a post-deployment notification to the public. The public may submit comments in writing regarding a particular deployment, or the CCTV system in general, to the Chief of Police, Metropolitan Police Department, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 5080, Washington, DC, 20001, or via e-mail at [chief@mpdc.org](mailto:chief@mpdc.org).

- ① Read the complete news release at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2498>
- ① Details on the MPDC's use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), including current camera locations, are available at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/CCTV.shtm>
- ① For more information on the MPDC's homeland security preparations, as well as links to other useful emergency preparedness resources, click on:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/emergencypreparedness.shtm>

## CHIEF RAMSEY ANNOUNCES CONCLUSION OF “CRIME INITIATIVE”

Chief Ramsey this week announced the conclusion of a successful Crime Initiative that helped to drive down DC’s crime rate over the last four months of 2003. In late August, Ramsey announced the emergency Crime Initiative in response to spikes in crime that were occurring in all seven police districts. Commanders were directed to identify the top crime problems in their districts and to develop strategies for addressing those problems. The Chief also suspended the scheduling provisions contained in Article 24 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police. This gave commanders greater flexibility in assigning personnel to carry out their neighborhood crime-fighting strategies. Under the initiative, commanders could adjust schedules without providing officers with the usual 14-day notice. In the first 90 days after the initiative was announced, the District experienced a 14 percent decrease in overall crime when compared with the 90 days prior to the initiative, according to preliminary statistics. When compared with the same 90-day period of 2002, crime over the first 90 days of the Crime Initiative was down 12 percent, including a 35 percent decline in homicides. Effective January 4, 2004, the 14-day notice for scheduling changes is back in effect. Commanders are reviewing their regular staff schedules to help ensure that resources are deployed efficiently to combat neighborhood crime problems.

## NEW EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR MPDC OFFICERS TAKES EFFECT

The new year brings a new educational requirement for potential MPDC officers. Now, officer candidates must have completed a minimum of 60-semester hours – the equivalent of roughly two years – of college before applying for the MPDC. Previously, applicants had to have only a high school diploma or equivalent. The new requirement is designed to ensure the continued professionalism of the police force in the District. The coursework need not be in any particular subject matter, and credits from any accredited college or university are accepted. The DC Council approved the enhanced educational requirement a few years ago, but with a January 1, 2004, effective date to give potential candidates time to secure their educational credits. DC joins a growing number of other major cities around the country that have adopted a college educational requirement for officer candidates. The 60-semester hour requirement applies to both new recruit and lateral officer applicants. All of the other minimum requirements for becoming an MPDC officer—including citizenship, age, vision and other standards—remain the same.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Street Sweeping Changes.** The DC Department of Public Works has temporarily suspended its weekly mechanical street cleaning operations through March 12, 2004. During this time, “No Parking/Street Cleaning” restrictions are lifted. Details at: [http://dpw.dc.gov/dpw/cwp/view.asp?a=1201&q=585847&dpwNav\\_GID=1479](http://dpw.dc.gov/dpw/cwp/view.asp?a=1201&q=585847&dpwNav_GID=1479).

**Traffic Cameras on the Web.** Motorists in the District can now get up-to-date information on traffic conditions—24 hours a day, seven days a week—through a network of 52 District Department of Transportation cameras that are accessible via DDOT’s website at [http://www.ddot.dc.gov/services/traffic\\_cameras/index.shtm#](http://www.ddot.dc.gov/services/traffic_cameras/index.shtm#).

- ① For more information about the crime-fighting goals and strategies in your community, contact your local district commander. To learn which district you live in, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm>

- ① For more information about applying to the MPDC, including a complete list of minimum requirements, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>
- ① The MPDC now accepts officer application online. Go to the Recruiting page and click on “Apply online today!”
- ① Lateral officers are experienced law enforcement professionals from other agencies who are hired by the MPDC at salaries commensurate with their experience. Details at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/polateral.shtm>

### DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 12/31/03)

- 2003: 248
- 2002: 262
- % Change: -5.3%

Adult Arrests (week end. 12/27/03)

- Total: 480
- Drugs: 95
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 6
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 17

Firearm Recoveries (as of 12/23/03)

- Total: 1,937
- December: 136

Traffic Fatalities (as of 12/31/03)

- 2003: 66
- 2002: 50
- % Change: +32.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**